

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MAN CONVICTED OF HARBORING ALIENS

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 20, 2003, Jesus Felix-Lugo (10/10/69), of Tucson, Arizona, was found guilty of two counts of harboring illegal aliens by a federal jury in Tucson, Arizona.

The evidence at trial showed that 19 illegal aliens were found in Felix-Lugo's residence. Though Felix-Lugo was not home at the time, he testified that a group of people had arrived at his door on the morning of April 25, 2002, asking for water. He further testified that he agreed to give the people water and then went to physical therapy, leaving his wife alone with the people. Two of the aliens found in his residence, however, testified that they had actually spent the night at the defendant's residence and that the defendant was present much of the time. The aliens also testified that they had been delivered to the defendant's address after having been picked-up in the desert near Sasabe, Arizona.

Two other witnesses testified that groups of illegal aliens had stayed at the defendant's residence before. One, a woman who babysat the defendant's daughter on two occasions prior to the defendant's arrest, testified that she observed large groups of strange people inexplicably present in the home. The other,

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a man that had been hired to pick-up aliens in the desert near Sasabe, Arizona, and deliver them to the defendant's address, testified that he had done this on three separate occasions prior to the defendant's arrest.

The defendant being remains out of custody pending sentencing.

Felix-Lugo, had been charged with violating Title 8 of the United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii). The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Raner Collins on August 19 and 20, 2003.

A conviction for 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$ 250,000 fine, or both.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Border Patrol.

Sentencing is set before Judge Raner Collins on October 29, 2003.

The prosecution is being handled by Nathan D. Leonardo, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-0777-TUC-RCC
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